

Ecclesiastes 9:1-10 Discussion Questions

Outline of Pastor Mike's Sermon

Intro

- Mother's Day Prayer
 - Pray for moms in general
 - Prayer for those who are experiencing loss or longing on Mother's Day
- Certainty of death and taxes
 - ***Our new Constitution is now established, and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.- Benjamin Franklin***
- Table of contents
 - The Unrelenting Power of Death (v.1-3)
 - The Consolation Prize of Life (v.4-10)

The Unrelenting Power of Death

- The Preacher expresses a skepticism about the value of righteousness life and action
 - The Preacher's worldview is limited to the limits of human life and Death is an unopposable enemy

The Consolation Prize of Life

- Life compared to death
 - The Ancient Near East understanding of dogs is of unsavory, scavenging beasts vs the nobility of the lion
- The Preacher is resigned to enjoy the limits of life
 - The Preacher commands the audience to take advantage of the current moment for their own pleasure and joy.
- *Fatalism - The story that tells you that you are powerless to do anything other than what you actually do because fate has already decided the future. The good life is a resignation of responsibility because the future has already been decided.*

Implications

- The structure of the book of Ephesians
 - Chapters 1-3 speak of the cosmic reality of God's plan and its accomplishment
 - Chapters 4-6 are the imperatives resulting from the understanding of God's plan and Christ's accomplished work

- Walk this way- this is an imperative of how you should live
 - Ephesians 4.1-2
 - Ephesians 5.2
 - Ephesians 5.8-21

Discussion Questions

Read Ecclesiastes 9:1-10

1. The Preacher begins this passage by reflecting on the inevitability of death. While we all recognize this fact, we respond to it different ways.

- a. How do you tend to respond to this fact?
- b. How does our society respond?
- c. What advice does the Preacher offer us in how we ought to respond?
- d. What kinds of attitudes and lifestyle does this produce? What does it lead to?
- e. Do you see these kinds of attitudes and lifestyles in the church? How about in your own life?

2. As we have seen over and over again, the Preacher is coming from the perspective of a person who is trying to make sense of life based on his own experience and his own wisdom.

- a. What do you think of the Preacher's advice? Is it good, bad, a little bit of both?
- b. How does the Preacher's perspective compare with how the NT approaches the topic of death?
- c. How does the Preacher's approach compare with how the NT approaches living in light of the inevitability of death?

3. Each one of us have things that we want to believe and live according to, but still find ourselves failing to do so. For some of us, we may want to live for eternity, but

find that often our desire to enjoy the moment overrules our attempts to live for eternity.

a. What are some ways that you see this most clearly in your own life?

b. What is the solution to this dilemma?

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